

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 352

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor Judge Cheryl A. Blackburn on the occasion of her retirement from the bench.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing an outstanding jurist who, having faithfully discharged her duties for many years, is embarking upon a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cheryl A. Blackburn has provided more than twenty-seven years of dedicated and insightful service as judge of the Criminal Court, Division III, 20th Judicial District, having first been appointed by Governor Don Sundquist in August 1996; and

WHEREAS, Judge Blackburn was subsequently elected by the citizens of Davidson County in 1998 and reelected in 2006, 2014, and 2022; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oak Ridge, Judge Cheryl Blackburn received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from Vanderbilt University in 1969; she attended graduate school at the University of South Carolina, received a Master of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology from Vanderbilt in 1972, and was awarded a Juris Doctor degree from Nashville School of Law in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Judge Blackburn held several positions with the Dede Wallace Center and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities prior to joining the Davidson County District Attorney's Office in 1979 under District Attorney Thomas Shriver; she also served under Victor S. Johnson and was promoted to one of the first two deputy district attorney positions; and

WHEREAS, an active and respected member of the legal profession, Judge Cheryl Blackburn is certified as a Criminal Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Education and Specialization; she is the first woman to be certified as a Criminal Trial Specialist in Tennessee and the first assistant district attorney to achieve this certification in the State; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Judge Blackburn has been honored with the Tennessee District Attorney's Conference Extraordinary Service Award and the Metropolitan Police Department Special Commendation Award, and she is a fellow of both the Nashville and Tennessee Bar Associations; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cheryl Blackburn has also served with distinction as a member of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, in which capacity she served on the Ethics Committee, the Judicial Performance Program Committee, and the Pattern Jury Instruction (Criminal) Committee; and

WHEREAS, Judge Blackburn exemplifies the commitment to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious tenure on the bench, Judge Cheryl Blackburn has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before her court, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is our pleasure and a privilege to honor Judge Cheryl A. Blackburn on the occasion of her retirement after nearly twenty-seven years as Judge of the Criminal Court, Division III, 20th Judicial District, extending to her our gratitude for a difficult job well done and our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.